



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

16 DECEMBER 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Francisco – Smash-and-Grab Robberies Organized with Snapchat and Other Apps

(U) Police say that some of the smash-and-grab robberies that recently took place were organized on social media and carried out by people who did not know each other. Local law enforcement believes thieves organized the robberies at a Bay Area Nordstrom and a San Francisco Louis Vuitton on social media. For other incidents in California, thieves used Snapchat to organize the crimes because of the app's ability to make messages disappear. Law enforcement has observed that the arrested suspects have little to no information about the other thieves involved. Investigators indicated that the robberies might have been timed around Kyle Rittenhouse's trial, believing police would be preoccupied with possible protests over the verdict in that trial.

SOURCE: 15 December 2021, [FOX40](#)

(U) San Jose – Police Arrest Six on Suspicion of Targeting Asian Women in Bay Area Robberies

(U) Police investigating more than 70 reported incidents of robbery, burglary, and theft between October 2020 and September 2021 led to the arrests of six men. Authorities believe the men specifically targeted Asian women around the Bay Area. According to members of the police department, Asian females were frequently the targeted victims, and many were injured during the robberies. Each of the six suspects, who were identified with the help of witnesses and the victims, received hate crime enhancements with their charges.

SOURCE: 15 December 2021, [FOX40](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST LAND BORDER

(U) Texas – Border Police Arrest Suspects in \$3 Million Meth Bust Near Hidalgo International Bridge

(U) Hidalgo – Two American citizens, a 20-year-old woman and a 20-year-old man are in federal custody after border police say they attempted to smuggle an estimated \$3,061,000 worth of methamphetamine in two separate incidents at Hidalgo International Bridge. In a press release, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) stated that the first incident occurred on Friday, December 10, when the female suspect attempted to enter Texas from Mexico in a white Chrysler minivan. Border agents found 21 packages of alleged methamphetamine weighing about 191 pounds after flagging her vehicle for additional security checks. On Sunday, 12 December, a male suspect attempted to enter Texas from Mexico in a gold Chevrolet sedan in the second incident. According to CBP, border guards detected about 27 pounds of alleged methamphetamine in 22 different packages.

SOURCE: 16 December 2021, [The Texan](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Sanctions Issued to Curb Fentanyl and Synthetic Drugs

(U) Washington – The US Treasury Department has sanctioned four Chinese companies and one Chinese citizen under just-announced Biden administration executive orders to help stem the rise of fatal overdoses of synthetic drugs. The two executive orders announced— “Establishing the US Council on

Transnational Organized Crime” and “Imposing Sanctions on Foreign Persons Involved in the Global Illicit Drug Trade”—are meant to help the government go after the makers of fentanyl, produced overwhelmingly in China. The department announced they placed sanctions on 10 individuals and 15 entities in Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, and China. Also sanctioned was Chuen Fat Yip, whom Treasury officials said was a trafficker of “fentanyl, anabolic steroids, and other synthetic drugs to the United States, and controls a group of companies that sell compounds and fentanyl precursor chemicals to the public and private businesses.”

SOURCE: 15 December 2021, [Defense One](#)

(U) District of Columbia – TSA Confiscated Record Number of Guns at Airports in 2021

(U) Washington – Nearly 5,700 firearms have been confiscated at airport security checkpoints in 2021, the highest number recorded by the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) since its inception. 5,674 guns were stopped in 2021 alone, the TSA said. The vast majority of weapons — 85% — were loaded with ammunition. Airports in Atlanta, Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston ranked highest in confiscated firearms. "It's an all time high," TSA Administrator David Pekoske told reporters during a Monday briefing. He said the previous high mark was 4,400 guns confiscated in 2019.

SOURCE: 14 December 2021, [CBS News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Germany – Four Men Suspected of Procuring Bomb Material Arrested

(U) Berlin – Four men, some of them suspected right-wing extremists, were arrested today as German investigators raided their homes in a probe of suspicions that they acquired substances to build an explosive device. Investigators seized raw material for explosives, firecrackers, cellphones, and a substantial quantity of narcotics in the raids on the four apartments in Cologne.

SOURCE: 16 December 2021, [AP News](#)

(U) Haiti – Gang Releases all 12 Christian Missionaries Held Captive for Two Months

(U) Port-au-Prince – A Haitian gang has released all 12 hostages two months to the day that they were kidnapped in Haiti’s capital. The hostages were abducted just east of Port-au-Prince by a notorious gang, 400 Mawozo. The missionaries included 12 adults and five children, including an 8-month-old. Of the group of 17 missionaries, all but one was American, the other being Canadian. The gang had asked for \$17 million, or \$1 million per person, to release the hostages and threatened to kill the hostages if the ransom was not paid. The first two of the hostages were released in late November, followed by three more missionaries on 5 December. After they were freed, a US State Department spokesman said the United States was continuing to work at the highest levels with the Haitian government and Canada to free the remaining hostages.

SOURCE: 16 December 2021, [Miami Herald](#)

(U) United Arab Emirates – US Navy Rescues Five Iranians After they Set Fire to Drug Stash

(U) Dubai – The US Navy rescued five Iranians suspected of smuggling drugs after setting fire to their stash onboard their dhow sailing vessel. The Navy released aerial surveillance footage showing the dhow in the Gulf of Oman. Video shows those on board pour a liquid, likely an accelerant, over the cargo hold as the Navy approaches. Smoke then pours from the vessel after those on board set the fire, with an explosion rocking the ship. Sailors from the patrol craft USS Sirocco later arrived, rescuing the men.

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Sailors recovered over 1,745 kilograms (3,850 pounds) of hashish, 500 kilograms (1,100 pounds) of methamphetamine, and 30 kilograms (66 pounds) of heroin. The Navy valued the recovered drugs as worth \$14.7 million. The Sailors believe the recovered drugs represent only half of all the drugs on board the dhow.

SOURCE: 16 December 2021, [AP News](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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